New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

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Minister's message / National Aboriginal Day (07/06/21)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) -- Following is a message from Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister Ed Doherty, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, on the occasion of National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2007:

"As we celebrate National Aboriginal Awareness Day in New Brunswick today, I would like to recognize and honour the culture and proud heritage of our province's Maliseet and Mi'kmaq First Nation communities.

"This National Aboriginal Awareness Day is very special in that it marks not only the day on which we celebrate, honour and acknowledge the culture, heritage and achievements of Aboriginal people in Canada and New Brunswick, but it is also the eve of the signing of the historic bilateral agreement between New Brunswick's First Nations and the provincial government.

"Tomorrow's signing ceremony will put in place a process for the First Nations communities of New Brunswick and the provincial government to deal with outstanding issues and new ones which may arise in the future in a productive manner and with mutual respect.

"I am confident this accord will give us the means to work together to achieve strong governments, social justice, economy sustainability and ultimately self-sufficiency for all 15 First Nations. This will benefit not only the communities but all New Brunswickers as we work toward achieving self-sufficiency throughout our province.

"The Maliseet and Mi'kmaq peoples have contributed immensely to the history and development of our province, and they have so much more to offer. Their great cultures and vibrant communities are part of what makes New Brunswick a great province and why it is so important on National Aboriginal Awareness Day to recognize and celebrate the contributions of our First Nations communities.

"As minister, I encourage all New Brunswickers to get out and take part in events celebrating National Aboriginal Awareness Day throughout New Brunswick."

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MEDIA CONTACT: Craig Chouinard, Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, 506-444-2519.

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